**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing device comprising:

a display unit whose display brightness [[level]] is changeable <u>based on a control signal</u>, ~~the display brightness level having a plurality of display brightness levels, a difference between the brightness levels adjacent thereto being predetermined~~;

~~means for detecting the~~ <u>a detector configured to detect a</u> lightness of surroundings;

~~means for determining~~ <u>a calculator configured to calculate</u> a target ~~display~~ brightness [[level]] of the display unit responsive to the lightness detected by the <u>detector</u> ~~means for detecting the lightness~~; and

~~means for changing the display~~ <u>a controller configured to repeatedly change the control signal by a predetermined level to change the display</u> brightness [[level]] of the display unit ~~incrementally with time until the display brightness level of the display device reaches the target display brightness level when changing the display brightness level to the target display brightness level determined by the means for determining the target display brightness level~~ <u>by a predetermined brightness step until the display brightness equals the target brightness, the predetermined brightness step being obtained by dividing a brightness changeable range.</u>

2. (Currently Amended) The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein the ~~means for changing the display brightness level~~ <u>controller is</u> further ~~includes means for instantly changing~~ <u>configured to change the control signal to change</u> the display brightness [[level]] to the <u>target</u> brightness ~~level determined by the means for determining the target display brightness level when the lightness is changed and means for deciding whether to switch the brightness level change by the means for instantly changing~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The information processing device according to claim 1, wherein

the means for changing the display brightness level includes means for setting the display brightness level of the display unit to a first brightness level responsive to the means for detecting the lightness when a first lightness level is detected by the means for detecting the lightness and to a second brightness level when a second lightness level is detected by the means for detecting the lightness, and

the means for changing the display brightness level first changes the display brightness level of the display unit from the first brightness level to a third brightness level between the first and second brightness levels, and then changes the display brightness level thereof from the third brightness level to the second brightness level responsive to the means for setting the display brightness level when changing the display brightness level from the first brightness level to the second brightness level when the lightness detected by the detector changes during repeated changing of the control signal by the controller, the calculator updates the target brightness of the display device.

4.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The information processing device according to claim [[1]] 2, further comprising:

means for deciding a determining unit configured to determine whether or not [[the]] a difference between the target brightness level determined by the means for determining the target display brightness level and the current display brightness [[level]] is greater than a predetermined value, and wherein

the means for changing the display brightness level changes the display brightness level incrementally with time at predetermined intervals until the target display brightness level is reached controller repeatedly changes the control signal by the predetermined level when the means for deciding the difference decides determining unit determines that the difference is greater than the predetermined value and the controller changes the control signal to change the display brightness to the target brightness when the determining unit determines that the difference is not greater than the predetermined value.

8.  (Cancelled)

9.  (Currently Amended) A brightness control method of an information processing device having a display unit whose display brightness [[level]] is changeable <u>based on a control signal,</u> ~~the display brightness level having a plurality of display brightness levels, a difference between the brightness levels adjacent thereto being predetermined,~~ the brightness control method comprising:

detecting a lightness of surroundings;

~~determining the~~ <u>calculating a</u> target ~~display~~ brightness level of the display unit in accordance with the detected lightness; and

~~changing the display brightness level of the display unit incrementally with time until the display~~ <u>repeatedly changing the control signal by a predetermined level to change the display</u> brightness [[level]] of the display unit ~~reaches the target display brightness level~~ <u>by a predetermined brightness step until the display brightness equals the target brightness, the predetermined brightness step being obtained by dividing a brightness changeable range</u>.

10.-12. (Cancelled)

13.  (New)  The information processing device according to claim 2, further comprising a user setting display screen on which one of a first mode and a second mode is selectable, and wherein the controller repeatedly changes the control signal by the predetermined level when the first mode is selected and the controller changes the control signal to change the display brightness to the target brightness when the second mode is selected.

14.  (New)  The brightness control method according to claim 9, further comprising: changing the control signal to change the display brightness to the target brightness.

15.  (New)  The brightness control method according to claim 9, wherein when the detected lightness changes during repeated changing of the control signal, the target brightness of the display device is updated.

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16.    (New)  The brightness control method according to claim 14, further comprising:

determining whether or not a difference between the target brightness and the display brightness is greater than a predetermined value,

and wherein the repeatedly changing is performed when the difference is greater than the predetermined value and changing the control signal to change the display brightness to the target brightness is performed when the difference is not greater than the predetermined value.

17.    (New)  The brightness control method according to claim 14, further comprising:

displaying a user setting display screen on which one of a first mode and a second mode is selectable,

and wherein the repeatedly changing is performed when the first mode is set and changing the control signal to change the display brightness to the target brightness is performed when the second mode is set.